

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**CRAMLINGTON, BEDLINGTON AND SEATON VALLEY LOCAL AREA**  
**COMMITTEE**

At the meeting of the **Cramlington, Bedlington and Seaton Valley Local Area Committee** held at Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project, Middle Farm Square, Cramlington, NE23 1DN on Wednesday 19 July 2023 at 6.00 pm

**PRESENT**

M Swinburn (Chair)

**MEMBERS**

L Bowman  
E Chicken  
W Daley  
P Ezhilchelvan  
C Taylor

B Flux  
M Robinson  
R Wilczek  
D Ferguson

**OFFICERS**

H Bowers  
N Easton  
T Gribbin  
R Mason  
L Smith

Democratic Services Officer  
Public Transport Manager  
Neighbourhood Services Area Manager  
Highways Delivery Area Manager  
Learning & OD Adviser – Domestic Abuse

Public: 6

**09. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Dunbar and Lee.

**10. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee held on Wednesday, 21 June 2023 as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and be signed by the Chair.

## **11. DISCLOSURES OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor Flux requested for transparency; it be noted that he was appointed as an Outside Body to Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project.

## **12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Adam Hogg, West Bedlington Town Council referred to the meeting in March 2022 regarding Bedlington town centre, where he had raised the issue of not being informed of updates by Advance and NCC on town projects. He had been assured by the Cabinet Member "that regular updates would be provided to West Bedlington Town Council in future." No updates or any communication had been received regarding any works.

The Chair offered his apologies for this but could not comment and would ask the Cabinet Member for information to be provided.

Mr Hogg also referred to the Avonline re-instatement works and queried why work had been undertaken in Morpeth to replace paths etc, to a good standard when Bedlington had been carried out to a poorer standard.

Mr Hogg was informed that the utility company replaced the paths, and it was not NCC's responsibility. However, Streetworks would check the standard of work carried out. It was also pointed out that the replacement of paths carried out by the utility company could have been co-ordinated with works carried out by the Council.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## **13. PETITIONS**

No petitions had been received; there were no reports or updates to consider.

## **14. DOMESTIC ABUSE**

Lucy Smith, Domestic Abuse Trainer, explained her role within NCC and provided an overview of Domestic Abuse and the Northumberland local response, including details of the new model of service provision.

The main key points included:

- In April 2021, the bill for domestic abuse act became law, providing additional protection.
- Statistics for women and men being murdered had remained the same for years.
- The Act recognised children in their own right
- Statutory definition for coercive control, isolation etc had to be personally connected to the victim.

- Protection measures had been extended to include coercive control.
- Under Clare's Law, people had the right to ask for information.
- A new offence of non-fatal strangulation was now a stand-alone offence.
- Police now had powers to issue an order to a person causing harm.
- Perpetrators were no longer allowed to cross examine victims.
- A pilot scheme run by Northumbria Police was the mandatory use of a polygraph for offenders entering into a new relationship.
- Victims seeking refuge had various housing options.
- A multi-agency Domestic Abuse Local Partnership Board developed and managed strategies through integrated services within Northumberland.
- The Strategic Domestic Abuse Board carried out domestic abuse assessments and strategies.
- Domestic Abuse analyst looked at local statistics.
- A Domestic Abuse summit had been held in October 2022.
- Training was available on Learning Together.
- As well as working for the Council, she also provided bespoke training as part of her role within the Council.
- Domestic Abuse services for young people included NDAS, Cygnus and Acorns.

In response to members' questions, the following information was given:

- The polygraph was mandatory and part of the sentence.
- Emergency housing and support would be given to victims.
- Work had been carried out with the LGBT community to ensure appropriate training, using case studies.
- Posters were available with information on where to get help from domestic abuse. An Action Plan Group looked at how they could help older people in Northumberland.
- NDAS and Harbour offered support for recovery for long term and historical abuse.
- Training was offered to taxi drivers, pubs, etc, but was usually done via a specialist training service.
- She would take back the question of whether the Council could do more to help domestic abuse victims across different sectors.

In discussing issues, it was stated that the Council's Communications Team could provide more promotion on the signs of domestic abuse, linking up with the service to advertise where to get help and the suggestion of a Lip Balm being handed out to women containing a mobile help number, or potentially contact details on beer mats.

The officer was thanked for her presentation.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

## 15. CRAMLINGTON VOLUNTARY YOUTH PROJECT

Claire Gascoigne - Senior Youth Development Coordinator provided information on plans and the benefits of the Community Chest.

The presentation included:

- The centre had been running for 33 years with the offer of good resources.
- Activities included a junior drop in, cooking, graffiti art, controlled martial arts, Duke of Edinburgh Awards and summer activity schemes.
- Services offered were sexual health scheme/signposting; Outreach Centre in partnership with Cramlington Town Council.
- Continual staff development to focus on individual issues and recruitment of volunteers, helpers and workshops.

*(Councillor Ezhilchelvan left the meeting at 7:01 pm)*

Members commented on the excellent provision the centre provided which was a model for other youth projects. The life chances offered and diversional activities for young people additional needs.

Ms Gascoigne was thanked for her presentation.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted.

*(Councillor Ezhilchelvan returned to the meeting at 7:04 pm)*

## 16. LOCAL BUS BOARD

Neil Easton, Public Transport Manager referred to the report which requested the Local Area Committee's nomination for the Northumberland Local Bus Board. The Cabinet report and Appendix 2 related to the terms of reference for information.

The North East Joint Transport Committee had agreed to make an Enhanced Bus Partnership resulting in funding of £163 million for the region.

The Enhanced Bus Partnership incorporated a package of regional and local bus schemes including a prescribed detailed infrastructure; new ticketing products to enable cheaper, simpler multi-modal fares. Improved reliability and connectivity to rural areas.

The Local Bus Board would not be a decision making body but would seek to improve working arrangements of bus services in Northumberland.

In response to members' questions, the following information was provided:

- The Local Bus Board would make recommendations to the Leader in his role as Northumberland's representative on the North East Joint Transport Committee.

- Once funding was received, the Council would begin to deliver a range of schemes to improve bus patronage, modal share, performance and customer satisfaction.

A member welcomed the local bus scheme as bus services in the Seaton Valley areas were not connected and she hoped that the Local Bus Board would make a difference.

Mr Easton explained that the DfT (Department for Transport) wanted local accountability. Tyne & Wear had already established a Local Bus Board and this had been expanded out to Northumberland and Durham.

Discussion took place regarding the amount of buses available in the Cramlington area, pinch point areas and average waiting times.

Mr Easton stated that the Leader shared the views and would not go ahead without local support.

He explained that the £2 day ticket had been superseded by the £5 Northumberland unlimited travel. The Tyne & Wear 2 zone was £6.50 for a day ticket for multi modal transport.

In response to a comment regarding pinch points in Bedlington, Mr Easton stated that from the study, there did not appear to be any pinch points in Bedlington, but there were time limited pinch points at school pick-ups and drop offs. The Systra Pinch Point survey would be forwarded to the Democratic Services Officer to circulate to members of the local area committee in due course.

Some members were sceptical about the scheme and foresaw problems in the future.

Mr Easton shared these concerns but pointed out that services would be subject to the usual tendering process and not direct contracts. In addition, the North of Tyne Mayor had the power to franchise.

Councillor Flux proposed that Councillor Swinburn be appointed as the Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley representative on the Northumberland Local Bus Board. This was seconded by Councillor Daley and agreed by all members of the local area committee.

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Swinburn be appointed to represent Cramlington, Bedlington & Seaton Valley Local Area Committee on the Northumberland Local Bus Board.

## 17. LOCAL SERVICES ISSUES

Russell Mason, Highways Delivery Manager, provided the following updates:

All Highways Inspectors and maintenance crews continued to work inspecting, fixing carriageway defects, making repairs, and making safe category one defects across the Southeast area.

The gully emptier was fully deployed dealing with reported issues and cyclic maintenance.

### **Larger Tarmac Patching had been carried out in the following locations:**

- Ringwood Drive, Cramlington
- Atley Way, Cramlington (Plaster Patches)
- Dudley Lane, Cramlington O/S Learning Village
- Front Street West, Bedlington
- Front Street East, Bedlington
- Hall Close, Cramlington Cycle Way
- Crow Hall Lane, Cramlington
- Waverly Drive, Bedlington
- Elsdon Avenue, S. Delaval
- Millbank Road, Bedlington
- St. Michaels Ave (footway), New Hartley
- Stead Lane to Spine Road
- Holywell A192
- Village Road, Cramlington

### **Drainage Improvements:**

- A192 Plessey Checks
- Cornwell Crescent, Bedlington
- Burnside View, Seghill
- Fontburn Road, Seaton Delaval
- St Michael Avenue, New Hartley (cleansing)
- The Brambles, New Hartley (cleansing)
- Astley Road, Seaton Delaval (cleansing)

**Micro surfacing prep** – Micro surfacing prep has been carried out at

- Chesterhill, Cramlington
- Trevelyan Avenue, Bedlington

The micro surfacing contractor was programmed to start in late August/Early September. All residents would receive a letter prior to work starting.

### **LTP - Carriageway Resurfacing**

LTP Carriageway Resurfacing schemes have been carried out in the following locations;

- A1172 – Cramlington – Completed in June

### **Other Completed Work**

- St Michaels avenue, New Hartley – installation of kerb line as part of Northern Line works.
- Bristol Street, New Hartley – Safety scheme, civils completed in June, Road Marking was programmed to be completed alongside resurfacing works in September.
- Crow Hall Lane, road marking and signage scheme – signs now installed, road markings were programmed to be completed W/C 24th July under nightshift full road closure.
- Klondyke – civils preparation work currently ongoing prior to resurfacing works.

### **Upcoming Resurfacing**

- Northumbrian Road – 14/08/23 for 6 nights – 20:00 to 06:00
- B1505 Klondyke – 21/08/23 for 6 nights – 20:00 to 06:00
- A190 Seaton Sluice – 29/08/23 for 4 nights – 20:00 to 06:00

### **Other Upcoming work.**

- Schalksmuhle Road, Bedlington- Bollards (safety scheme) -Monday
- Bishops Meadow, Bedlington- Bollards (safety scheme) -Tue,Wed
- A192 Seaton Delaval- Guardrail repair.

In response to members' questions, Mr Mason provided the following information:

- There was nothing in the current LTP for the A192 at Holywell
- A first-time fix was currently being trialled for plaster patching
- He would report back on the entrance to the cycleway at Seven Oaks Park and the footpath on Dudley Lane/CLV/Monkside

Tony Gribbin, Neighbourhood Services Area Manager gave the following updates:

### **Bereavement Services**

- Bereavement Services was running very well.
- The Muslim burial ground was fully prepared.

### **Waste Service**

- Residual, recycling, and bulky waste collection services continued to perform well.
- A review of routes took place recently – this resulted in a change of collection day for 4070 households.
  - The second week of the revised collection rounds was going well.
  - Some customers had presented bins late or forgotten the day change. The team was working to address those with individual customers.

- All 4070 households were located in the South East Area
- Other households remained on the same collection day, but the time of collection may have changed. General comms messages went out informing people of this.
- Garden waste service was also performing well but could be challenging on occasion – as peak season was reached.
  - As usual, a garden waste service review would be undertaken at the end of the season to look for efficiencies and make the service more manageable.
  - There were 300 new customers in our area so far this year.
  - And 7300 customers at present.

**Grass cutting**

- Proved to be a challenge for teams in the early part of the year but conditions had stabilised, and amenity grass was returning to normal standards.
- Now on cut 6 nearing cut 7 in Cramlington, 7 in Bedlington and 10 in Seaton Valley

**Weed Control**

- Service being delivered in house again this year.
  - All areas had received the first weed treatment.
  - Members would be emailed when their areas had been completed.
  - Blue dye was being used again this year, where possible.

**Winter Services Planning**

- In the next few weeks, the winter service planning would commence, for both the winter horticultural targeted works and the snow and Ice planning

In response to members’ questions, the following information was provided:

- The graffiti on the fence would be blocked out however, a section of metal fence had been removed to facilitate the construction vehicle to attend and replace with a close wooden fence. The Estates Team had been asked to replace the metal fence, which would prevent further graffiti with no need to repaint.

**RESOLVED** that the information be noted and issues set out in the bullet points in members’ comments be followed up.

**18. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members considered a list of appointments to outside bodies for 2023/24.

**RESOLVED** that the following list of appointments be confirmed:

Astley Park Management Committee	Les Bowman
Beaconhill Community Association	Barry Flux



Cramlington Community Association	Mark Swinburn
Cramlington Voluntary Youth Project	Barry Flux Wayne Daley
East Hartford (and District) Community Association	Barry Flux
New Hartley Community Association	David Ferguson

**19. WORK PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED** that the work programme be noted.

**20. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 23 August. (Planning only).

**21. URGENT BUSINESS**

Members were urged to check the Members' Local Improvement Schemes and informed of a drop in event at Manor Walks regarding the Northumberland Line.

**CHAIR** .....

**DATE** .....